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(*d*) how many of these men were qualified for the post of Deputy Tahsildars and how many were not; and

(*e*) whether any uniform principle is adopted in the case of these selections?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (*a*) All the posts referred to are temporary posts and no age-limit has been prescribed in respect of any of those posts.

" (*b*) The Board of Revenue is the selecting authority in the case of Assistant Commercial Tax Officers and Assistant Rationing Officers. The Collector is the selecting authority in the case of Taluk Supply Officers and Assistant Textile Control Officers. Prior to December 1946, the Provincial Textile Commissioner was the selecting authority in the case of Assistant Textile Control Officers.

" (*c*)

Category.	Age groups of			Total.
	40–45	45–50	50–55	
Assistant Commercial Tax Officers.	8	6	3	17
Taluk Supply Officers ..	80	17	1	98
Textile Control Officers.	8	..	1	9
Assistant Rationing Officers.	6	7	1	14

" (*d*) Out of the 138 men referred to above, 108 were qualified for appointment as Deputy Tahsildars.

" (*e*) Except in the case of Assistant Commercial Tax Officer no uniform principle has been laid down. The appointing authorities are trusted to make the most suitable choice. Selection to the post of Assistant Commercial Tax Officers are, however, governed by certain temporary rules issued in 1939. Appointment to these posts are made by transfer from the category of Deputy Tahsildars and Sub-Inspectors of Excise and by promotion of clerks in the Commercial Taxes Department, who have worked in that department for a period of not less than two years. The question of framing fresh rules for the recruitment to the posts in the Commercial Taxes Department is under the consideration of the Government."

Manufacture of caustic soda in the Province.

* 44 *Q.*—SRI M. K. SUNDARARAMA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of caustic soda factories in our Province; their monthly production in tons from 1940 onwards and their selling prices;

(*b*) the quantity in tons released for consumption in the Province to (1) yarn and cloth dyers, (2) soap manufacturers and (3) to other textile purposes;

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(*c*) whether the Government have fixed any ratio in regard to quantity for distribution;

(*d*) whether caustic soda manufactured by the Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation have been found inferior and weaker in strength when compared to imported caustic soda; if so, whether the Government have advised them to improve the quality;

(*e*) whether the Government have received any proposals from private firms and Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation regarding erection of new additional plants for increasing the production of caustic soda;

(*f*) whether the bleaching powder manufactured by the Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation has very low chlorine content relative to imported bleaching powder;

(*g*) whether the selling agents of Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation are compelling the yarn and cloth dyers to take for each pound of caustic soda four to five times of bleaching powder; and

(*h*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to advise them to supply caustic soda alone without the accompaniment of bleaching powder to yarn and cloth dyers while they do not require bleaching powder?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*) The Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation, Limited, Mettur, is the only Company which manufactures caustic soda in this Province. Information regarding the monthly production of the Company is not available. The annual production of the Company during the years 1941–44 was as given below :—

Year.	Production per year. TONS.
1941	369
1942	883
1943	1,316
1944	1,223

A statement[a] showing the rates charged by the Company is placed on the Table of the House.

" (*b*) The information is not available as the distribution was not effected through this Government.

" (*c*) The Provincial Government have not fixed any ratio but the Central Government has been giving directions to stockists.

" (*d*) The strength depends on the extent of concentration, which again will depend on available facilities and the demand. No instructions have been issued by this Government regarding the quality of the product.

" (*e*) Yes.

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 45-46 infra.

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" (*f*) Some complaints have been received to this effect.

" (*g*) No.

" (*h*) The question does not arise."

Supply of newspapers to the office of Inspector of Local Boards.

* 45 Q.—Sri H. M. JAGANNATHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that several newspapers, daily and weekly, are supplied to the office of the Inspector of Local Boards at Government cost during the period from 1944–47 and if so, whether they are made available daily for the office staff or for the members of public visiting the office of the Inspector of Local Boards; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the old or used newspapers are sold and, if so, the amount realized by sale of newspapers during 1944, 1945, 1946 and 1947 and whether the Government will place on the table of the House a statement of the dates of credit of the sale-proceeds during the same period?

The Hon. Sri K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" (*a*) Dailies but no weeklies were subscribed for by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards at Government cost during the period 1944–47 for official reference by himself and also by the office staff as and when required. They are not intended for being read by members of public visiting the office.

" (*b*) The old papers are sold. Some of them were lost through theft which occurred at the end of 1944. The remaining papers and those of 1945 and 1946 were sold to the Salvation Army at concessional rates. The proceeds, namely, Rs. 8–1–0 was credited to Government, on 1st October 1947. The other old papers are pending sale from 6th January 1948. since the Government contractor has not yet turned up, in spite of notice."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is it at the discretion of the officer, either in this office or in any other office under the Government, to get so many newspapers, either weekly or daily? "

The Hon. Sri K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" It is left to the discretion of the officer."

Constitution of an Expert Committee for reorganizing the Engineering Colleges.

* 46 Q.—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have constituted any expert Committee for reorganizing the Engineering Colleges in the Province;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what the constitution and terms of reference to the Committee are;

(*c*) whether the Committee have submitted their conclusions on the subjects referred to them;